Church unity
18:18

VALUATIONS

of

"A Christian Foundation"

for

The New York Federation of Churches

Received and issued by

The Rev. WALTER LAIDLAW, Ph.D.

Research and Fellowship Secretary
Room 258 200 FIFTH AVENUE

As laymen interested in the Christian welfare of New York, and acquainted with the record of its Federation of Churches, we commend and will coöperate with the commencement of actual, earnest effort to realize, as speedily as may be feasible, the plan, adopted and ordered printed by its Board of Directors, for a Christian Foundation for the Federation.

GEORGE GORDON BATTLE
WILLIAM N. BEST
WILLIAM C. BREED
L. ROY CURTISS
WALTER T. DIACK
RAYMOND B. FOSDICK
EDWIN P. MAYNARD
CHARLES R. SAUL
FRED B. SMITH
FREDERICK A. WALLIS

September 8, 1920.

THE RT. REV. WILLIAM T. MANNING, D. D.

Bishop of the Diocese of New York

The New York Federation of Churches, under the leadership of The Rev. Dr. Laidlaw, has for many years carried on its invaluable work for the general good with much less support than it needs and deserves. Such an agency to unite as far as possible the Christian forces in measures for the civic, moral and religious welfare of the community is not only important, it is indispensable if the influence of the Christian religion is to be effective in the life of our city.

The work of The New York Federation of Churches is most valuable and helpful from many points of view. It is meeting practical present needs of the utmost importance, and it is helping to draw Christians of all names nearer to each other and to hasten the day when, with all proper liberty of opinion and practice, we shall be visibly united on the basis of the great central realities of our common faith as Christians should be.

November 13, 1921.

THE REV. ROBERT L. KELLY, D. D.

Executive Secretary
Council of Church Boards of Education

Please allow me to extend a word of hearty appreciation of your excellent Fellowship plan. I have read the plan with a great deal of interest and with very hearty approval. I am in hearty accordance, not only with the purpose of it, but with its details. I cannot conceive how any more important piece of work could be done in the interests of the Kingdom than the establishment of such fellowships dedicated to the training of competent Christian leaders. I wish the plan eminent success.

May I say that I not only consider it inherently valuable, but extremely timely. Just at this moment there is great danger of the industrialization of our educational interests, private as well as public. We are in the midst of an epoch of agitation along industrial lines in educational work. The industrial phase of our civilization in many ways is being brought to the attention of our students. It is absolutely necessary to utilize every worthy means of holding before these students the high spiritual values which have always characterized American Education.

October 21, 1920.

THE REV. HARLAN G. MENDENHALL, D. D.

Moderator Presbytery of New York

I have examined a "Christian Foundation," and looked into its aims and objects with intense interest; you are on the right track, there is no question about it, and I wish you success. It has seemed to me for a long time back that your Federation should find a more sympathetic interest with all our churches.

July 17, 1920.

THE REV. WILLIAM HIRAM FOULKES, D. D.

Executive Secretary,
Presbyterian New Era Movement.

The conception of the Foundation is inspiring. Its projection will involve patient and persistent Church statesmanship of a high order. The results, which even a measurable fulfilment of the plans will bring, will be far reaching. Upon such a foundation, well and wisely laid, the coming Church may build better than the Church of the past.

November 9, 1920.

THE REV. A. C. McGIFFERT, D. D.

President Union Theological Seminary

I am much interested in the Federation's scheme for Seminary Fellowships: It should be possible for Federation Fellows to work with advantage at Union and we shall be glad to offer them all the opportunities possible provided they are qualified to take our work. Our new Department of Home Service should be exactly adapted to their needs.

July 10, 1920.

THE REV. CHARLES STELZLE, D. D.

I think that the plan is not only feasible, but should by all means be put into operation. New York surely needs the most masterful organization of its churches that can possibly be devised, because the churches here are compelled not only to work out their own problems but to pioneer in the various fields of aggressive Christianity for the entire country,—particularly its commercial and industrial centers.

July 14, 1920.

THE REV. WILLIAM SHEAFE CHASE, D. D.

Rector Christ Church, Brooklyn; Chairman Social Service Commission, Diocese of Long Island

A new era in the establishment of the Kingdom of God will begin when the Foundation plan for The New York Federation of Churches is realized. My earnest prayer is that your dream may truly come to pass, that the training camp for the religious forces of our country may be speedily put into operation.

THE REV. GEORGE U. WENNER, D. D.

Christ Lutheran Church

Without the help that you are giving the churches in their effort to reach the millions of New York's population we would be like blind men searching for pearls on the seashore. I have no hesitation however in saying that while your plan is large and far reaching it is not too large for the things that the churches have in mind to do, and I trust that in some way or other a way may be found for reaching the goal. Per ardua ad astra.

September 27, 1920.

THE REV. HENRY E. COBB, D. D.

West End Collegiate Church

I hope it is not too late to say that I regard the suggestion of "A Christian Foundation for the New York Federation of Churches" as not only admirable in its scope and plan but as indispensable under the conditions which are facing us in New York City today. It is my earnest hope that the churches will take it up.

September 29, 1920.

THE REV. R. A. WATSON, D. D.

President, South Classis of Long Island, Reformed Church in America

I heartily endorse the Foundation plan which you have submitted. We must federate the Church before we can hope to federate the World. We must make the world safe for Christ before it will be safe for Democracy. Only under some supreme command, some Marshal Foch, can the allied armies of God move on to that important victory. Where there is no vision the Church perishes. The Founda-

tion plan furnishes the vision and the leadership. The goal for which we strive can be reached if the denominations will only fight together.

October 7, 1921.

THE HON. GEORGE GORDON BATTLE

I have read with great interest your documents "Twenty-Five Years' Survey and Service" and also "A Christian Foundation for the New York Federation of Churches." The plan which you suggest is most inspiring and at the same time most practical. I believe it presents a remedy for many of our difficulties. I wish you all success, and I shall be glad to help in any way in my power.

August 16, 1920.

THE REV. HENRY MOTTET, D. D.

Church of the Holy Communion

I have considered with care your organization programme of the Federation, and also "The Foundation Plan."

So heartily am I in sympathy with both, that I hope you will use me for their furtherance in any manner possible.

October 1, 1920.

THE REV. ROCKLAND T. HOMANS, D. D.

Grace Church, Jamaica, New York

The outline of "A Christian Foundation" appeals greatly to me as the right method to pursue in the work of the necessary research and preparation. The plan is somewhat similar to the Christian Unity Foundation organized and incorporated in 1910.

Federation and Unity ought to be cooperative in working towards the great object of making Christianity effective or of preserving what is true in Christianity. Surely the central principle of Christianity, the one great need to-day, as well as the fundamental element in life, is Unity. When Federation is used as an advanced step towards the Unity Problem then I am with you, body and soul.

I should like to see your plan successfully carried out, and would be happy if I could be instrumental by assisting in its establishment.

September 24, 1920.

THE REV. GAYLORD S. WHITE, D. D.

Secretary and Headworker, Union Settlement

It seems to me that you have made an excellent presentation of the case and one that ought to carry conviction. I am espcially interested in your plan for Fellowships. I wish it might be possible for us to cooperate in some way if you carry out your plan.

June 23, 1920.

THE REV. JOHN H. KERR, D. D.

Arlington Avenue Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn

I believe that the Federation of Churches should have a financial basis, so that it would not be dependent upon the more or less precarious method of annual appeals to ministers and churches. I believe that the organization is the logical one for the unification and direction by and large of the Protestant forces. Therefore I approve of the project of seeking endowment, though I have no suggestions as to how to carry the movement out.

September 22, 1920.

THE REV. A. E. CORY, D. D.

Former Associate General Secretary,
Interchurch World Movement of N. America

I am very much impressed with the document on "Survey and Service," as I am also with the "Christian Foundation."

In the outlines you have sent me the Federation certainly is undertaking a notable piece of work and one worth the fullest support.

November 16, 1920.

THE REV. EDWARD R. WRIGHT, D. D.

Executive Secretary

The Federated Churches, Cleveland, Ohio

I want to thank you for the "Twenty-Five Years' Survey and Service" which I devoured yesterday. Although I received it some time ago, and looked it over, it was not until yesterday that I digested it.

It is a great piece of work and you are to be congratulated. It

certainly presents a strong appeal and should insure the success of your Foundation plan.

July 26, 1920.

THE REV. HARRY EMERSON FOSDICK, D. D.

I am greatly interested in the plans which you have drawn up for a permanent foundation to be built under The New York Federation of Churches. It seems to me an admirable idea, and one whose successful issue would mean a great deal to the Protestant cause in New York City.

January 3, 1921.

THE REV. JOHN M. MOORE, D. D.

Marcy Avenue Baptist Church, Brooklyn.

The pamphlet, "A Christian Foundation for the New York Federation of Churches," contains the most comprehensive statement of policy and program for meeting an extremely difficult metropolitan situation that I have ever seen, and I doubt whether any thing equal to it has ever been wrought out.

The Protestant Christian problem of New York City is so great that I see no hope for the future except through some such united aggressive advance movement. There are difficulties in the way, of course, the least of which is the difficulty of financing such a vast project, with perhaps a greater difficulty than that in getting such a vision to our people, but "no one who knew ever said it was easy to follow Christ."

September 23, 1920.

THE REV. MILLARD L. ROBINSON, Ph. D.

Executive Secretary

The New York City Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church

I believe that a Christian Foundation such as you have described in this prospectus, wisely administered by a Federation officially representing Protestant Church bodies of Greater New York, is the only basis by which there can be united and effective cooperation among the churches of this city in the accomplishment of our common task.

June 23, 1920.